

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. A8388

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (*currently amended*): A helmet for cushioning a head during a sudden impact, comprising:

a helmet shell; and

an energy absorbing protective liner fitted to an interior surface of the helmet shell, wherein the energy absorbing protective liner comprises a slow recovery viscoelastic material with a surface impregnation of a waterproofing material and wherein a surface of the energy absorbing protective liner facing the interior surface of the helmet shell lacks the waterproofing material.

2. (*original*): The helmet according to claim 1, wherein the slow recovery viscoelastic material is slow recovery viscoelastic polyurethane foam.

3. (*original*): The helmet according to claim 1, wherein the waterproofing material is silicone.

4. (*currently amended*): A helmet for cushioning a head during a sudden impact, comprising:

a helmet shell; and

a plurality of energy absorbing protective pads arranged on an interior surface of the helmet shell, wherein each of the energy absorbing protective pads comprises a slow recovery viscoelastic material with a surface impregnation of a waterproofing material and wherein a surface of each of the energy absorbing protective pads facing the interior surface of the helmet shell lacks the waterproofing material.

5. (*original*): The helmet according to claim 4, wherein the slow recovery viscoelastic material is slow recovery viscoelastic polyurethane foam.

6. (*original*): The helmet according to claim 4, wherein the waterproofing material is silicone.

7. (*original*): The helmet according to claim 4, wherein the plurality of energy absorbing protective pads are shaped into pads of variable thickness and size.

8. *(currently amended)*: A helmet for cushioning a head during a sudden impact, comprising:

a helmet shell comprising a thermoplastic shell having a humanoid head shape, and lateral members at least partially disposed around a circumference of ~~the~~ a central portion of the thermoplastic shell; and

an energy absorbing protective liner fitted to an interior surface of the helmet shell, wherein the energy absorbing protective liner comprises a slow recovery viscoelastic material with a surface impregnation of a waterproofing material and wherein a surface of the energy absorbing protective liner facing the interior surface of the helmet shell lacks the waterproofing material.

9. *(original)*: The helmet according to claim 8, wherein the helmet shell has a thickness of at least 2 millimeters.

10. *(original)*: The helmet according to claim 8, wherein the thermoplastic shell is an injection molded plastic shell.

11. *(original)*: The helmet according to claim 8, wherein the thermoplastic shell is a pressure molded thermoset resin reinforced with at least one of a glass fiber, KEVLAR fiber or carbon fiber.

12. *(original)*: The helmet according to claim 8, wherein the lateral members are thicker than other portions of the helmet shell.

13. *(original)* The helmet according to claim 8, wherein the lateral members disperse an impact force from a point of contact to other portions of the helmet shell.

14. *(original)*: The helmet according to claim 8, wherein the helmet shell disperses at least thirty percent of an impact force applied to the helmet shell.

15. *(original)*: The helmet according to claim 8, wherein the slow recovery viscoelastic material is slow recovery viscoelastic polyurethane foam.

16. *(original)* The helmet according to claim 8, wherein the waterproofing material is silicone.

17. *(original)*: The helmet according to claim 8, wherein each of the lateral members disposed around a circumference of the helmet shell is comprised of an upper lateral member and a lower lateral member, and the upper lateral member and the lower lateral member are separated by a lateral channel.

18. (*original*): The helmet according to claim 17, wherein the helmet shell further comprises a strap attachment member, and the lower lateral member is angled towards the location where the strap attachment member is disposed on the helmet shell.

19. (*currently amended*): A helmet for cushioning a head during a sudden impact, comprising:

a helmet shell comprising a thermoplastic shell having a humanoid head shape, and lateral members disposed around a circumference of a central portion of the thermoplastic shell; and

a plurality of energy absorbing protective pads arranged on an interior surface of the helmet shell, wherein each of the energy absorbing protective pads comprises a slow recovery viscoelastic material with surface impregnation of a waterproofing material and wherein a surface of each of the energy absorbing protective pads facing the interior surface of the helmet shell lacks the waterproofing material.

20. (*original*): The helmet according to claim 19, wherein the slow recovery viscoelastic material is slow recovery viscoelastic polyurethane foam.

21. (*original*): The helmet according to claim 19, wherein the waterproofing material is silicone.

22. (*original*): The helmet according to claim 19, wherein the plurality of energy absorbing protective pads are shaped into pads of variable thickness and size.